

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A sterilisation apparatus for medical instruments ~~and the like which is easy to operate, handle and transport~~ comprising a mini sterilisation apparatus, said mini sterilisation apparatus comprising a casing provided with a cylindrical double-walled sterilisation boiler having an a cylindrical inner wall and an a cylindrical outer wall, thereby forming an outer boiler between the inner and outer walls and an inner boiler within the inner wall, whereby fluid water is present ~~between the inner and the outer wall~~ in the outer boiler such that a stable temperature of the inner wall can be achieved as well as steam generated therefrom, and ~~an apparatus~~ a series of valves for providing a pulsating high vacuum in said inner boiler so as to pulsatingly feed steam into the ~~interior of the sterilisation~~ inner boiler, said series of valves comprising a steam valve to provide steam from the outer boiler to the inner boiler and a vacuum valve connected to an ejector that comprises a cold water valve to provide a vacuum in the inner boiler, wherein the ~~double-walled sterilisation boiler comprises an inner boiler having~~ has a volume of from about 10 to about 50 liters, and wherein the ejector is outside the inner and outer boilers.

2. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising regulators and heating elements in said double boiler walls which provide for a stable fluid temperature.

3. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an inlet and apparatus for feeding steam for the sterilisation process pulsatingly into said boiler, and an apparatus for providing a pulsating vacuum in said boiler such that air in the instruments or the like objects which are to be sterilised can be removed.

4. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus for setting and measuring pressure, temperature, time and output.

5. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a process computer which displays various data read-outs digitally and/or alphanumerically and/or graphically.

6. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a switch clock for "stand-by" purposes, wherein said "stand-by" purposes are for heating-up of and maintaining the temperature of said boiler.

7. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising lateral supports for a number of standard plateaus on which objects to be sterilised may be placed.

8. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the front or feed side of the boiler can be sealed pressure-tight by means of a heat-isolating hinged door provided with an incorporated nut whereby the casing to that end is provided with a swivelable hermetically sealing screw.

9. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said sealing screw is operated by means of an electromotor of which the operating phases are operated by said process computer.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~double-walled boiler comprises a cylindrical sterilisation boiler~~ inner boiler is placed symmetrically though non-concentrically within a ~~said~~ cylindrical outer boiler, such that in the use-position the volume of the ~~fluid or~~ water space on the bottom of the double-walled boiler is considerably larger than at the top of the boiler.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~double-walled boiler comprises a cylindrical~~ inner sterilisation boiler is placed concentrically within a said cylindrical outer boiler.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said process computer and said sterilisation apparatus are provided in a casing said casing further comprising the ~~fluid~~ water reservoir with corresponding pump, control appendages, a dry-air connection and a connection to a vacuum line with valves.

13. **(Cancelled).**

14. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising demineralized water.

15. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising an internal or external printing apparatus for displaying said data read outs.

16.-22. **(Cancelled).**

23. **(New)** A method of sterilizing a medical comprising introducing the medical instrument into an apparatus according to Claim 1, pulsatingly introducing said steam into said boiler, and removing said instrument from said apparatus.

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24. (New) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the medical instrument comprises a hollow instrument part from which all air is removed.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Identification of Claims Discussed

Independent Claim 1 was discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Kalasek, et al., United States Patent 4,263,258, filed July 11, 1979.

Proposed Amendments

Claim 1, as amended herein was discussed.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Applicants argued that there are a number of differences between the sterilization apparatus of Kalasek, et al. and that claimed herein, including the size, the shape, and the fact that Kalasek does not have an inner boiler and an outer boiler. It just has a chamber. The use of the boiler keeps the inner chamber at a constant temperature and allows the inner chamber to remain heated during the vacuum phase.

Results of Interview

The Examiner agreed to give serious consideration to claims as discussed and the written arguments as discussed herein if a response and RCE were filed. The Examiner indicated that Applicants were "moving in the right direction."